

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 DRC-01 EB-11 /131 W

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O P 011613Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3897

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3284

SECDEF FOR SECRETARY SCHLESINGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NL, NATO

SUBJECT: FONMIN VAN DER STOEL'S COMMENTS ON PRESENT

STATUS OF DUTCH DEFENSE PLAN

1. DURING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ON JULY 1 FONMIN
VAN DER STOEL DEFENDED NETHERLANDS LONG-TERM DEFENSE
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PLAN STATING THAT PICTURE WAS NOT RPT NOT GLOOMY AND

NO ALARM WAS NECESSARY. RATHER, GON HAD MOVED TO RESTRUCTURE AND PLACE OVERALL NETHERLANDS DEFENSE ON A MUCH SOUNDER BASIS..

2. VAN DER STOEL RECALLED THAT THE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT HAD INHERITED A DIFFICULT POSITION BECAUSE INVESTMENT DECISIONS CONCERNING DEFENSE HAD BEEN POSTPONED FOR MANY YEARS. THUS, A CONTINUATION OF PRIOR PROGRAMS WOULD HAVE GIVEN ONLY THE SEMBLANCE BUT NOT THE REALITY OF THE NETHERLANDS' ABILITY TO PERFORM ITS NATO-ASSIGNED TASKS. VAN DER STOEL ALSO REITERATED COMMENTS MADE BY NETHERLANDS PERMREP IN BRUSSELS, RESPONSIVE TO ALLIED CRITICISM, THAT (A) GON WOULD DO NOTHING TO REDUCE ITS PEACETIME STRENGTH WHILE MBFR TALKS ARE IN PROGRESS; (B) GON HAS NOW DECIDED TO FINALIZE MECHANIZATION OF THE FIFTH DIVISION; AND (C) GON DOES NOT PLAN TO DISSOLVE ITS HAWK SQUADRONS BUT SIMPLY TO RELOCATE SOME OF THEM TO PROTECT ITS AIR FIELDS IN THE NETHERLANDS. HE ADDED THAT SINCE THE FRG STILL APPEARS TO BE UNHAPPY WITH THE RESULT, GON IS PREPARED TO CONSULT FURTHER ON THE MATTER.

3. GON, ACCORDING TO VAN DER STOEL, FEELS THAT ALLIES DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CERTAIN POSITIVE ELEMENTS, NOTABLY THAT GON HAS SAFEGUARDED ITS PROGRAM OF INVESTING AND IN SOME RESPECTS IMPROVING IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES; AND HAS IMPROVED THE MOBILIZATION POSSIBILITIES OF CERTAIN OF ITS ARMED FORCES ELEMENTS. MOREOVER, DEN UYL GOVERNMENT HAS BROKEN WITH PRECEDENT BY AUTHORIZING MINISTER OF FINANCE TO MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR MOD TO EXPEND IN THE EVENT THAT PAY INCREASES REQUIRE AN AUGMENTATION BEYOND THE PRESCRIBED ANNUAL BUDGET. SUMMARIZING, VAN DER STOEL EMPHASIED THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAD NOT FAILED IN ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE ALLIANCE AND DOES NOT INTEND TO DO SO IN THE FUTURE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT "BY COINCIDENCE" AMBASSADOR VAN LYNDEN WAS SCHEDULED TO SEE SECDEF SCHLESINGER JULY 2 TO OUTLINE THE PRESENT STATUS
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OF DUTCH DEFENSE THINKING ALONG THE LINES VAN DER STOEL HAD JUST GIVEN THE AMBASSADOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, MILITARY PLANS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA03284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740174-0533
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740782/aaaacswe.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <19 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN VAN DER STOEL'S COMMENTS ON PRESENT STATUS OF DUTCH DEFENSE PLAN
TAGS: MCAF, NL, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005